

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
FEDERAL ECONOMIC STATISTICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
JUSTIFICATION FOR RENEWAL**

1. Accomplishments Under Extant Charter. The Federal Economic Statistics Advisory Committee met four times during the current charter period. The meetings were held on December 12, 2014; June 12, 2015; December 11, 2015 and June 10, 2016. As a result of these meetings, the Committee provided advice on removing barriers to synchronizing business data to improve the measurement of key national indicators on the health of the American economy such as output, productivity, earnings, job growth and inflation as well as improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the agencies. They also focused on the challenges of mixed devices for survey data collection and commercial Big Data and official economic statistics that included naturally-occurring account data and small business indicators.

The FESAC also studied the future of economic statistics with a focus on the following two broad challenges:

- a. Declining Response Rates given response rates for sample surveys have been falling with negative implications for data quality and survey costs.
- b. Changing Data User Demands, which are increasing in scope and complexity. Users want more timely and detailed data for characteristics of the economy that are not easily captured in surveys (e.g., finer levels of geographic or industrial detail).

2. Need for Renewal. The Committee is needed to provide advice to the Directors of the Economics and Statistics Administration's (ESA) two statistical agencies, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and the U.S Census Bureau, and the Commissioner of the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), on statistical methodology and other technical matters related to the collection, tabulation, and analysis of federal economic statistics.

3. Balanced Membership. The Committee aims to have a balanced representation among its members, considering such factors as geography, age, gender, race, ethnicity, technical expertise, community involvement and knowledge of census programs and/or activities.

4. Other Factors. The information and advice this Committee provides cannot be obtained effectively and efficiently from any other source. In the absence of this Committee, the ESA, BEA, Census and BLS would obtain this information from paid consultants, individuals or community groups across the United States to attain needed input. There are no other sources available in one place to obtain this kind of advice in a more timely and cost efficient-manner.

5. Completion of Functions. It is anticipated that the charter will be renewed every two years. The Census Bureau requests continuation of this Committee for the two-year charter term.